



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
	:	
EMMANUELA O. NKEMNEME, RN	:	FINAL ORDER
License # 26NR11793100	:	OF DISCIPLINE
	:	
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Emmanuela O. Nkemneme ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
2. On or about April 19, 2012, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal for the period of June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2014.
3. Respondent was asked on the biennial renewal application whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2012,"

referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2012. Respondent answered "Yes" and certified that answer by submitting the online application.

4. The Board sent a letter of inquiry requesting certain information and submission of documents regarding continuing education to Respondent's address of record in Williamstown, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail on or about June 04, 2013.

5. Regarding continuing education, Respondent provided a certificate of completion for thirty (30) contact hours of continuing education completed on June 27, 2013. Respondent maintained that she was unable to locate any certificates of completion within the biennial period of June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 and offered the June 2013 courses to cure the deficiency. Respondent indicated that she would take an additional 30 hours of continuing education to satisfy the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 biennial requirements.

6. On or about April 12, 2014, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal for the period of June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2016.

7. Respondent was asked on the biennial renewal application whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2014,"

referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2014. Respondent answered "Yes" and certified that answer by submitting the online application. Respondent also answered that she had completed a one hour course on Organ and Tissue Donation.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b), licensees are required to complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education during the preceding biennial period in order to renew their licenses. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(f), licensees are required to maintain documentation of completion of continuing education for a period of four years after completion, and shall submit such documentation to the Board upon request.

Respondent failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, timely completion of the required continuing education credits for the biennial renewal period of June 01, 2010 to May 31, 2012. The Board therefore finds Respondent in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b) and 13:37-5.3(f), which in turn subjects Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's use of dishonesty and misrepresentation during the license renewal process in falsifying her continuing

education information constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), subjecting Respondent to sanctions.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on January 7, 2015, provisionally imposing a reprimand and a \$250 civil penalty, and ordering respondent to provide documentation of completion of required continuing education for the 2012-2014 licensing cycle within ten days of finalization of the Provisional Order. A copy of the Order was served upon respondent's attorney by certified and regular mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order. She provided documentation of timely completion of thirty (30) contact hours of nursing continuing education for the 2012-2014 licensing cycle, as well as completion of a course in organ and tissue donation. Respondent admitted she was unable to document

completion of continuing education completed during the 2010-2012 licensing cycle, and has sent in payment of the \$250 civil penalty.

The Board considered this matter, and determined that as respondent has already documented completion of required continuing education for the 2012-2014 licensing cycle, and has already paid the \$250 penalty, the Provisional Order of Discipline should be finalized, with adjustments to the order reflecting these facts.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 8th day of May, 2015,
ORDERED that:

1. A reprimand is imposed on Respondent for misrepresentation with regard to the continuing education information on her license renewal application.
2. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for failing to timely complete required continuing education. As respondent has already provided payment of this penalty, she need take no further action in this regard.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: Patricia Murphy PLD APN
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
President